UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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AND/OR COMMON St.	Mary's Episcopal	Church			
LOCATIO	N				
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

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2. The Need for the Preservation of Kansas City's Architectural Heritage.

1969
10cal
Kansas City Chapter, American Institute of Architects
Kansas City, Missouri

3. Kansas City: A Place in Time
1977
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri
City Hall - 26th Floor, E.
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

ITEM NUMBER 11

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey State Contact Person Department of Natural Resources Office of Historic Preservation P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City

May 3, 1978 314/751-4096

Missouri 65102



\_EXCELLENT

XGOOD

\_\_FAIR

#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

#### CHECK ONE

\_UNALTERED

#### CHECK ONE

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1307 Holmes Street, is located on an irregular plot of ground in Kansas City's Central Business District. The church has a frontage of approximately 51 feet on Holmes Street and 125 feet on Thirteenth Street. The structure consists of the church proper, an attached parish hall, and a detached church office. The main body of the church is rectangular in plan, with the main entrance at the northwest corner. The parish hall, attached to the south portion of the church, is also rectangular in plan. The front portion of the parish hall is two stories and the rear portion is one story. The detached church office, located at the southeast corner of the parish hall is a rectangular, one-story structure.

## Construction materials and colors

The church and parish hall are of red brick laid in red mortar with Warrensburg sandstone sills and decorative elements. The brick church office has been painted pale rose. All doors and window framings are of wood and are painted red. The foundations are of squared limestone.

## Roofs

Originally the church spires and the gable roofs of the church and parish hall were of red slate. The main tower of the church is now sheathed in copper and the roofs of the church and parish hall have been replaced with asbestos shingles. The roofs of the church office and the rear portion of the parish hall are flat and covered with asbestos sheets.

#### Chimney

A brick chimney rises at the southwest corner of the parish hall. It is stepped in design and is topped with a chimney hood and pot.

## Basement

The parish hall has a full basement. The church has a small basement only under the altar area. The church office has no basement.

### West facade

The west facade, facing Holmes Street, is flanked on either side by short, polygonal towers, topped with turret roofs. Each tower contains an entrance door set within an arch. Above the doors are narrow, arched windows. The solid wood, double door on the south is approached by a series of steps and is set in a pointed arch. The north door, also a solid wood, double door, is at street level. It is set within a round arch and is topped with a flush pointed gable, outlined in sandstone. The first story of the facade projects between these two doors, containing four deep compound arch windows, set in a thick wall and topped with a narrow shed roof. Above these recessed windows, the wall falls back and contains three narrow round arched windows. The center window is twenty feet in height and five feet wide. Flanking it on either side are similar windows, although not as tall. Flush brick work forms an arch pattern over each of the three windows. A louvered roundel is located at the peak of the gable.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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## North facade

The north facade, facing Thirteenth Street, is distinguished by a large tower positioned in the center of the facade. The tower is twenty-four feet square and 140 feet high. It projects approximately eight feet from the north wall of the church. The corner piers of the lower half of the tower are of stone. The piers continue in brick, ending in short pinnacles. The first stage of the tower, approached by a series of steps, constitutes an entrance porch, now used as a chapel. The double wood doors are set in a recessed rounded arch. The next stage of thirty feet contains the organ chamber. Above this are the bellringer's loft and the bell chamber. The pointed termination of the tower, sheathed in copper, is surmounted by an ornate iron cross. West of the tower is a plain brick wall with four narrow round arched windows with stone sills in the upper stage. The northwest polygonal tower has an entrance door on this facade, as well as the door on the west facade. A narrow gable roof is over the doorway. To the east of the tower, along the north facade of the church, lies a one-story side chapel with a low flat roof trimmed with a bastioned stone parapet. The north wall of this chapel is pierced with three low round arched windows and one narrow pointed arched window. Stone capped buttresses add a decorative effect to the wall. A door to the sacristy is located at the east end of this facade.

## East facade

The east facade consists of a plain brick wall, with windows only in the lower stage. The east gable is surmounted by an iron cross.

## South facade

Most of the south facade of the church is hidden by the attached parish hall. Above the one-story rear portion of the hall is a series of round arched windows.

## Parish hall

The parish hall adjoins the south wall of the church building and is recessed approximately ten feet from the west facade line. The double, solid wood door, set in a pointed arch, is approached by a series of steps offset to the north. A small concrete porch with a stone railing is set in front of the door. To the north of the door is a small lancet window with a stone sill. A pair of lancet windows with stone sills are above the door on the second floor. To the north is another lancet window. A jerkinhead treatment is used to create a dormer-like effect in the west gable area. At ground level, a brick arch is attached to the southwest corner of the parish hall leading to a passage along the south edge of the building. The arch is repeated at the east end of the hall. Segmental arched windows are noted along the south facade of the parish hall.

## Church office

The entrance of this single story, two room building faces south. The building is distinguished by a decorative, corbeled parapet. At one point the building was used for a child care center.2

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ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## Church interior

The interior of the church consists of a wide nave with flanking side aisles and chapels. On the south, the side aisle runs the entire length of the church. On the north, the side aisle runs from the entrance porch, at the northwest corner to the tower section. The side aisles are formed by a series of segmental arches. Each bay of the side aisle is then defined, on the interior by a series of pointed arches. The flat ceilings of the side aisles are of wood. Above the side aisle, a gallery at the triforium level forms a passage around the interior of the church. The ceilings of each bay of the gallery are brick barrel vaults with sandstone bands.

The exterior walls, of red brick, are separated from the inner brick walls by a six inch space. The inner walls were faced with white brick, now painted red, with ventilation holes in them. This was an early attempt at using an air space to control interior temperature. Band courses of sandstone are used as decorative features in the side aisles and triforium arches. Brick piers, serving as part of the arches, also support the trusses of the ceiling. The ceiling of the church is a plain ribbed vault of pine with heavy molded pine trusses. The east wall of the church is an unbroken expanse of primed brick interspers with horizontal bands of sandstone. The original wood floor of the church is intact, although that been covered in the choir and altar area with a linoleum type covering. The nave is plainly seated with cathedral chairs. An entrance door and a stairway at the southwest corner of the church serve as a connecting passage to the parish hall. A door at the southeast corner of the church and a door in the center of the south side aisle also connect the church to the parish hall.

One bay west of the east gable wall is the main altar, dedicated to the memory of the Reverend H.D. Jardine, rector of St. Mary's from 1879 to 1886. The altar was designed by Karyl Coleman, an employee of Tiffany's in New York. Coleman perfected a process of infusing color through the thickness of marble by applying heat, called the endolithic process. Mosaic craftsmen, afraid the process would destroy their business, purchased and destroyed his patents and formula, so the process became a lost art. This is the most important altar utilizing the endolithic process before the patents were destroyed. The altar, 14 feet wide and 32 feet high, was on display at Tiffany's before being installed in the church. On the frontal is a figure of the Madonna and Child, surrounded by ten female saints. On either side of the tabernacle are large plates containing the figures of Saints John, Anne, Joseph and Elizabeth. Above the tabernacle is a spire-like structure, rich in finials and pinnacles.

In front of the altar is a spacious choir, able to accommodate over sixty singers. It is enclosed by a screen of yellow pine and oak. A wrought iron rood screen separates the choir from the nave. It was designed by church member and historian, Thomas Boyer Pain. 5

A portion of the north wall of the nave is broken up into a series of chapels. In the bay just west of the tower is the Annunciation Chapel with a marble plaque of the Annunciation over the chantry altar.

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The tower opens into the church in the middle of the north wall by a series of three tiers of arches. In 1903 the first level of the tower was converted into All Souls Chapel. This had previously been the main entrance of the church. Over the door of this chapel is a small crucifix that was found in the ruins of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The chapel measures 24 feet square and has a flat wood ceiling.

East of the tower is the Chapel of the Holy Angels, part of the original design of the church This chapel measures 20 feet by 60 feet. It contains a small altar also decorated by the endolithic process and the reed organ from the old church. This chapel has a flat, wood beamed ceiling. When the chapel was renovated and redecorated in 1943, walnut paneling was added to the altar and used for the wainscoting.<sup>7</sup>

Perhaps the most striking feature of the church are the thirty-one magnificent stained and painted glass windows. Originally, colored cathedral glass was used for the windows, but this was gradually replaced as new windows were dedicated as memorials and thanksgiving windows. The Trinity window in the northwest corner of the gallery was originally over the entrance of the old church. Most of the windows are dated. The Resurrection and Ascension windows are the products of a local firm, the Campbell Paint and Glass Company. They were commissioned in 1904. It is likely that many of the other windows are also from the same firm. A church member, Thomas Boyer Pain is credited with designing the windows; he was an executive and designer for the firm for over forty years. 9

Other decorative and historic features of the interior include:

- 1) polychromed plaster Stations of the Cross, given by church member, Dr. Mark Simpson around 1900.
- 2) original wrought iron hanging light fixtures, one on each pier forming the side aisles:
- 3) the wood cross that topped the old church is preserved in the vaulting of the ceiling, close to the tower section.
- 4) other objects from the old church including the sanctuary light in front of the high altar; the granite baptismal font with wrought iron decorative cover; the original chalice and paten; and a prayer desk made from the walnut doors of the old church, now positioned behind the high altar.

## <u>Alterations</u>

- 1) roof changed from slate to asbestos shingles and tower sheathed in copper 1969.
- 2) four stone pinnacles on main tower, removed before 1943.
- 3) stone floor of altar and choir area covered with linoleum-type material, date unknown.
- 4) some alteration in doors and windows of church office, south facade, date unknown.

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## Condition

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is in good condition, both exteriorly and on the interior. The building is well maintained.

## Site

Surfaced parking lots surround the church and buildings on the north, south and east. To the west is a government office building.

## Present Status

The building still functions as St. Mary's Church with a congregation of approximately two hundred. During week days the parish hall is used as a child care center. Currently, there are no redevelopment plans that would affect the structures.

## **FOOTNOTES**

- 1. "Opened for Worship," Kansas City Times, 18 June 1888, p.8.
- Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Room, clipping file (churches Episcopal -St. Mary's - Guild of the Holy Angel), <u>Kansas City Star</u>, 7 December 1938.
- 3. Rev. Floyd A. Curry, notes, c. 1969. Compiled and typed by Jane Curry, 1974.
- 4. Ibid.
- 5. Ibid.
- 6. "Historical Outline of St. Mary's Church." N.D., p.3. (mimeographed.)
- 7. "Old St. Mary's Gets a Rehabilitation," Kansas City Star, 29 August 1943, Sec. D.p.4.
- 8. Western Contractor, April 6, 1904.
- 9. "Thomas J.B. Pain is Dead," Kansas City Times, 2 March 1936, p.2.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Missouri, is one of the oldest churches of the city and one of the few remaining churches in the Central Business District. Designed by the prominent New Jersey architect, William Halsey Wood in 1887/88, the church is an excellent early example of Late Gothic Revival style architecture. It is the only known work by Wood in Kansas City. The interior of the church has undergone very little alteration. Thus, it serves as an excellent example of a late nineteenth century church interior, with several notable stained glass windows and an altar decorated in the endolithic process.

## Historical Data

The history of St. Mary's Church dates from December 14, 1857, when a meeting of parishioners drew up "articles of association" for an Episcopal church in Kansas City and named it St. Luke's Church.<sup>2</sup> The name was changed to St. Mary's in 1879.<sup>3</sup> In 1867 the congregation moved to their first permanent building at Eighth and Walnut Streets. As the congregation grew, a mission church was established at Tenth and Central. That church is now Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, 415 west initteenth Street. In 1886 property for a new church was acquired for \$9,000 at Thirteenth That church is now Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, 415 West Thirteenth and Holmes. The first portion constructed was the parish house. Governor Marmaduke laid the corner stone on September 29, 1886. By March 1887, the parish house was completed and church services were held there. Ground was broken for the church building on August 6, 1886, and construction was begun in 1887. The church was formally opened on June 17, 1888, with Canon Knowles of Chicago officiating. The original tower of the church quickly developed structural problems and began to lean. Neither the architect nor the contractor would accept responsibility, noting that it had been constructed on soft strata near the bank of a stream that curved around Charlotte Street. The tower was reconstructed at the church's expense. This debt delayed formal consecratio of the church until 1938, since Episcopal law forbids consecration of a building which is not debt free. The church is a good example of Late Gothic Revival style. Its quieter, more serene design and its simple silhouette distinguishes it from the earlier Gothic revival styles. English motifs, such as lancet windows, are integrated into the overall design.

When the church was built, it was located in a fashionable residential neighborhood, but during the following decade the transition began that saw the area change from residential to commercial. The church has survived this transition and maintains a congregation of around two hundred.

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The architect of St. Mary's Church, William Halsey Wood (1855-1897) of Newark, New Jersey, was trained in the office of T.A. Roberts. After a short partnership in the firm of Roberts, Taylor and Wood, he practiced alone. Wood had offices in both Newark and New York City. His contemporaries did not rank him high in the profession, citing his ease at securing commissions that enabled him to follow his desire to create an "American style." Regardless, he was the architect of numerous churches in several states, as well as domestic and public structures. Although not prize-winning, his competition designs for the New York Cathedral of St. John the Devine received much praise. Among his works were the Carnegie Library at Braddock, Pennsylvania, the Church of the Redeemer in New York City, and All Angels Church, also in New York City.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The St. Mary's Episcopal Church is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture, ""Fine Arts and Humanities", and "Society".

#### **FOOTNOTES**

- 1. Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles (Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969), pp. 173-177.
- Edward Schauffler, "St. Mary's Episcopal Church is 90 Years Old," Kansas City Star, 14 December 1947, sec. E. p.10.
- 3. "A Parish into 76th Year," Kansas City Times, 12 December 1932, p.6.
- 4. Schauffler, "St. Mary's," sec. E.p.10.
- 5. "Historical Outline of St. Mary's Church," n.d. (mimeographed).
- 6. Schauffler, "St. Mary's," sec. E, p.10.
- 7. American Architect and Building News, 55 (March 20 1897):90.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1. American Architect and Building News, 55 (March 20, 1897): 90
- 2. "A Parish into 76th Year." Kansas City Times, 12 December, 1932, p.6.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PR	OPERTY IS INCLUDE	D IN THE NATIONAL REG	HISTER
,			DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOL	OGY AND HISTORIC	PRESERVATION	
ATTEST:			DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGIS	STER		

Form No. 10:300a 1Rev. 10:741

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## ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

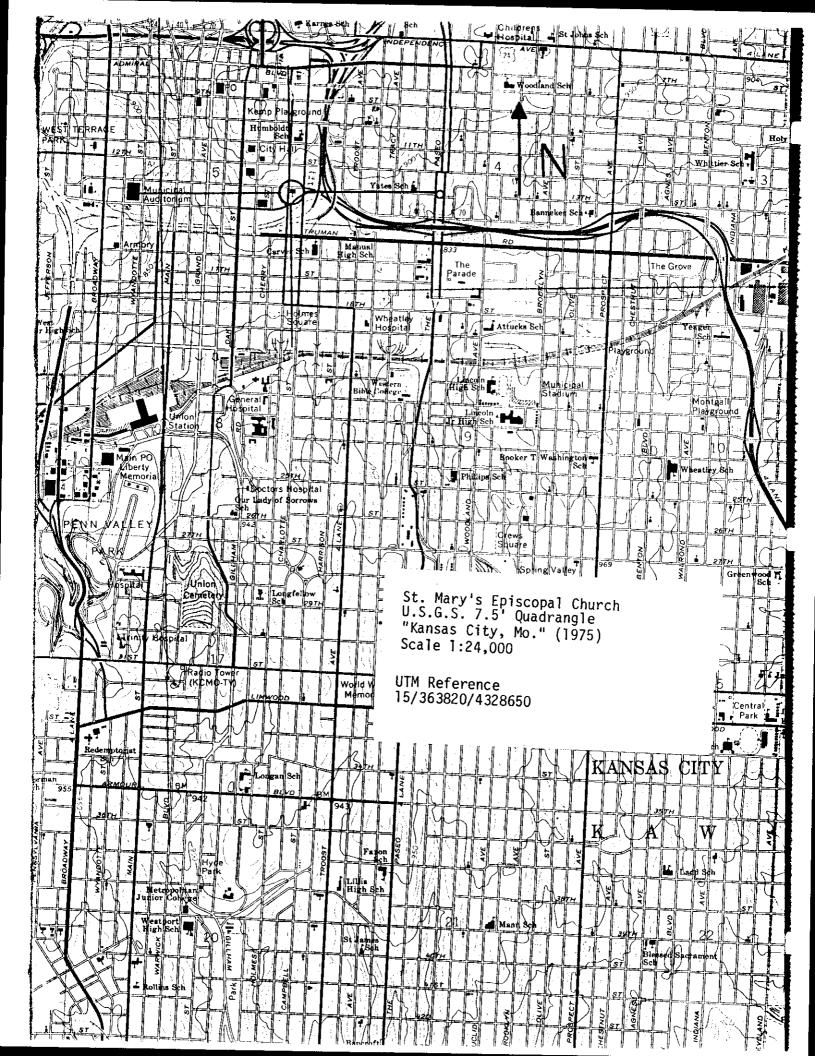
## CONTINUATION SHEET

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- 3. Curry, Rev. Floyd A. notes. c. 1969. compiled and typed by Jane Curry, 1974.
- 4. "Historical Outline of St. Mary's Church." n.d.
- 5. Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Room, clipping file (churches Episcopal St. Mary's Guild of the Holy Angel). <u>Kansas City Star</u>, 7 December 1938.
- 6. "Old St. Mary's Gets a Rehabilitation." Kansas City Star, 29 August 1943, Sec. D. p.4
- 7. "Opened for Worship." Kansas City Times, 18 June 1888, p.8.
- 8. Schauffler, Edward. "St. Mary's Episcopal Church is 90 years Old." Kansas City Star, 14 December 1947, Sec. E., p.10.
- 9. "Thomas J.B. Pain is Dead." Kansas City Times, 2 March 1936, p.2.
- 10. Western Contractor, April 6, 1904.
- 11. Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. A Guide to the Styles, Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969.



# ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COUNTY:

Jackson

LOCATION:

ADDRESS: OWNER:

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

DATE SENT TO D.C.: DATE OF RECEIPT IN D.C.:

PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED (AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

1307 Holmes St. Kansas City, Mo.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

1307 Holmes St. Kansas City, Mo.

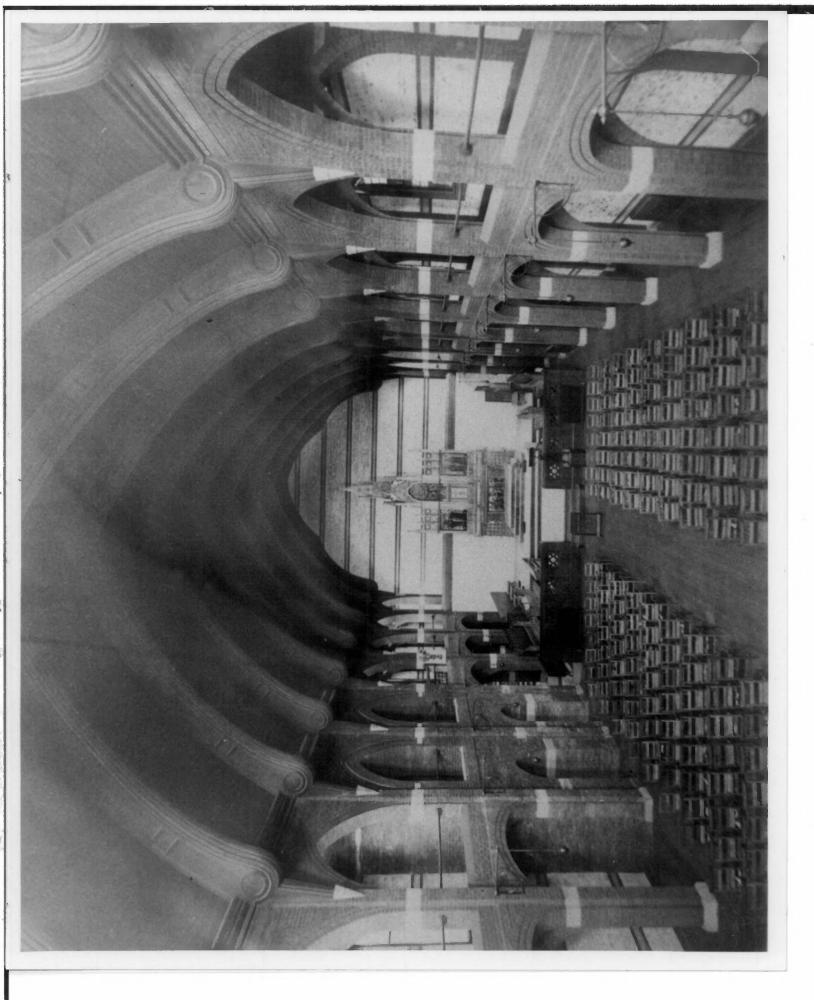
August 17, 1978

August 23, 1978 August 28, 1978 November 7, 1978

Mayor Richard Berkley December 6, 1979

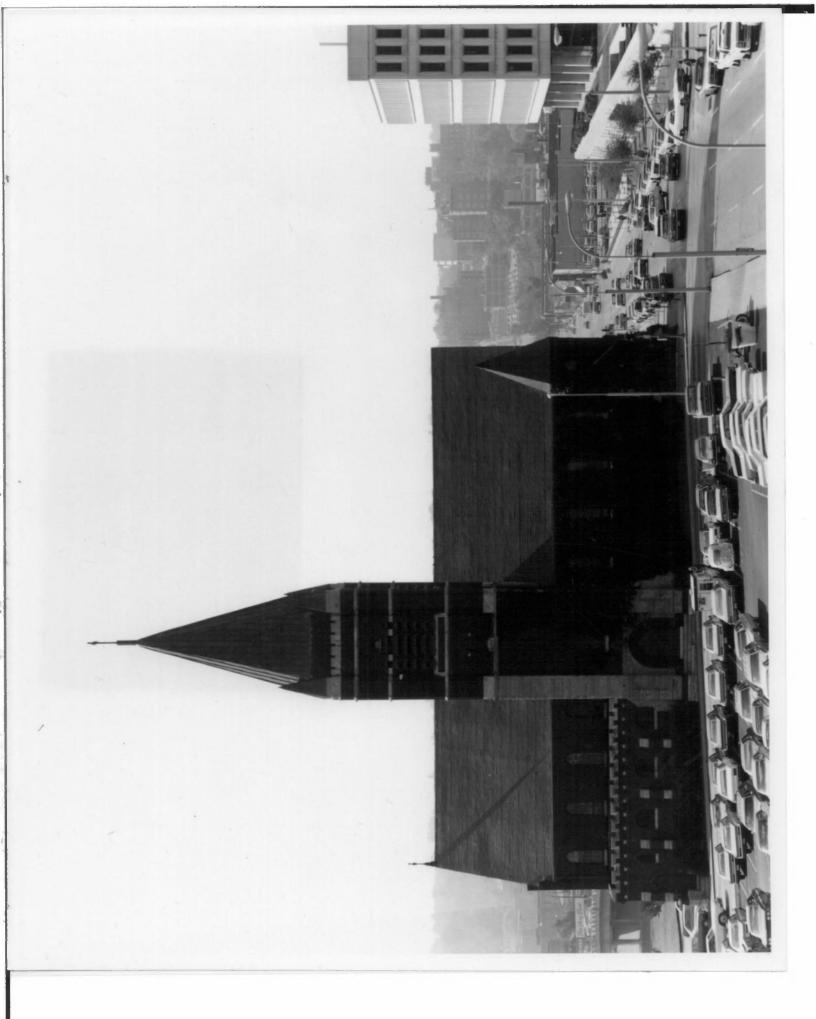
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Missouri, is one of the oldest churches of the city and one of the few remaining churches in the Central Business District. Designed by the prominent New Jersey architect, William Halsey Wood in 1887/88, the church is an excellent early example of Late Gothic Revival style architecture. It is the only known work by Wood in Kansas City. The interior of the church has undergone very little alteration. Thus, it serves as an excellent example of a late nineteenth century church interior, with several notable stained glass windows and an altar decorated in the endolithic process.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church #1 Kansas City, Missouri photographer: unknown date unknown Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall - 26th Floor, East 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106 Interior of church, view looking east, toward altar.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church #2 Kansas City, Missouri photographer: Paul Kivett c. 1971 Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall - 26th Floor, East 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106

North facade of building, view looking south.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church #3 Kansas City, Missouri photographer: Sherry Piland March, 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall - 26th Floor, East 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106

West facade of church on left; west and south facades of Parish Hall on right. View looking northeast.





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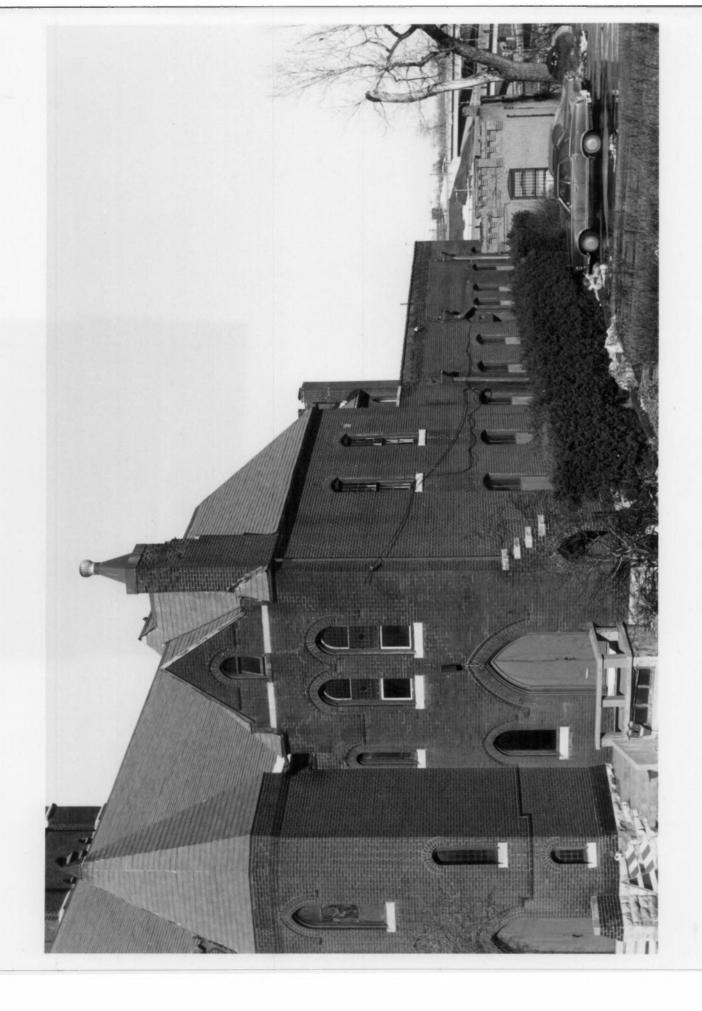
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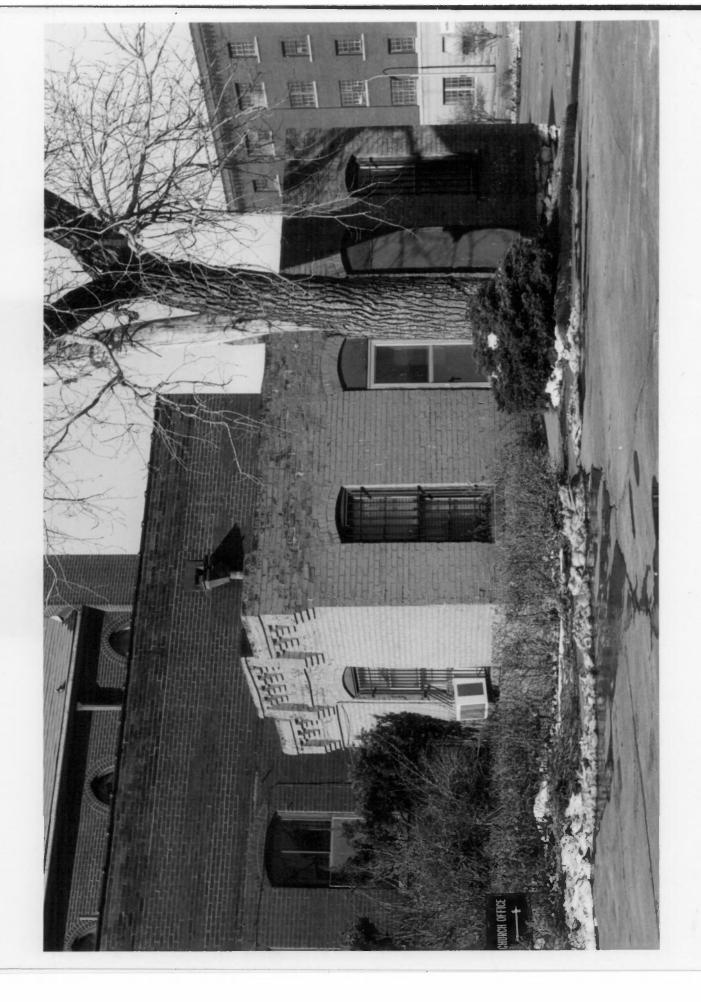
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Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall - 26th Floor, East 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Parish Hall of left, west and south facades. Church office on right. View looking northeast.



Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall - 26th Floor, East 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106 Church office; west facade on right; south facade on left. Parish hall and church in background on right. View looking northeast.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church #6 Kansas City, Missouri photographer: Paul Kivett c. 1971 Kansas City Landmarks Commission City Hall - 26th Floor, East 414 East 12th Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106 Interior of church, view looking east, toward altar.



